# Music Syllabus 2026–2027

**Instructor:** Mr. Andrews
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This year-long course deepens musical appreciation and develops practical performance skills in a rock band ensemble setting. Students will have the opportunity to try different instruments, but will choose an instrument of focus from guitar, ukulele, vocals, piano, or percussion. Course materials and resources will be provided to students through Google Classroom.

## Year-at-a-Glance Overview

*Note: Students are required to participate in 2–4 music performances throughout the school year.*

### Quarter 1: The Anatomy of Sound

- **Core Focus:** Learning how musical notes work, pitch distances, and building scales by ear without needing to read sheet music.
- **Unit Project:** Ear Gym Challenge – Identifying intervals and pitch distances by ear.

### Quarter 2: Chord Construction & "The Magic 4"

- **Core Focus:** Understanding how major and minor chords are built and using the Roman Numeral System to play popular rock and pop chord patterns.
- **Unit Project:** 4-Chord Mashup – Performing a 4-chord progression and transitioning seamlessly between two different songs that use it.

### Quarter 3: Song Anatomy & Movement

- **Core Focus:** Learning how music creates tension and release, using relative minor chords to change the mood, and building basslines and vocal melodies.
- **Unit Project:** Progression Decoding – Listening to rock/pop tracks and mapping out their chord progression numbers by ear.

### Quarter 4: The Songwriting Lab

- **Core Focus:** Putting everything together to write, arrange, and rehearse an original song with a band.
- **Unit Project:** Rock Band Showcase – Performing an original band song alongside chosen cover songs in a live concert showcase.

## Classroom Expectations & Rules

Our core guidelines are simple: **Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible.**

## 1. Daily Preparation & Technology

- **Instruments & Journal:** Get your instrument ready and tuned up, and have your journal ready for weekly music reflections.
- **Vocal Warmups:** All students will participate in daily vocal warmups.
- **Furniture Care:** No feet on the desks. Maintain a clean workspace.
- **Chromebooks:** Please bring these when requested

## 2. Cell Phone & Electronics Policy

- **Cell Phones:** Cell phones must be stored in your locker for the duration of the school day, as per the Oregon State cell phone policy.
- **Headphones & Hoods:**
  - No Bluetooth headphones or earbuds are permitted during classroom instruction.
  - *Exception:* Headphones may be permitted during independent work solely at teacher discretion.
  - Hoods must remain down at all times to ensure compliance with headphone expectations.

## 3. Respect & Discourse

- You will encounter ideas from texts, classmates, and your teacher that you disagree with. Engage in respectful disagreement without personal insults.
- You will inevitably not like some songs we play, but trying your best on every piece is expected.

# Academic Policies & Evaluation

| Evaluation / Policy Area | Details |
|---|---|
| **In-Class Musical Participation** | 30% of overall grade. Includes effort on all repertoire, active engagement, and participating in background vocals when required. |
| **Written Reflection Journal** | Students are required to maintain a written reflection journal. Grades will be based on the **depth of reflection**. The goal of these journal entries is to broaden students' overall musical appreciation, encourage them to think critically about their personal musical tastes, and deepen their understanding and |

| Evaluation / Policy Area | Details |
|---|---|
| | appreciation of songform and composition as informed music listeners. |
| **Projects & Concerts** | Assessed through student projects and concert participation. All students are expected to participate in community concerts (2–4 per year) unless excused with prior written permission. |
| **Course Materials** | Provided to students via Google Classroom. |

# Teacher Commitment & Communication

You and your parents/guardians can expect a fair, respectful, and consistent environment. If you ever have a question or concern about a decision, grade, or policy, please reach out via email, phone, or by visiting before/after school.

# Acknowledgement & Signature Section

Please sign and return this section to acknowledge the class expectations, grading, and cell phone policies.

**Student Name (Printed):** _____

**Student Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

**Parent/Guardian Name (Printed):** _____

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** _____

**Date:** _____

**Preferred Parent/Guardian Contact Info:**

*This information will be used in the event I need to discuss academic or behavioral concerns. Please list your preferred contact methods (e.g., cell phone, home number, email address).*

1. _____
2. _____